

# August 2004—Ground Safety Briefing

42,815

Number of deaths from car accident in the United States in 2002.

2,926,000

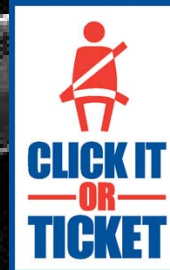
Number of injured in car accidents.

6,316,000

Number of reported traffic crashes.

Among passenger vehicle occupants over 4 years old, safety belts saved an estimated 14,164 lives in 2002.

At the high use rates achieved in other countries (85 percent), safety belts could have saved the lives of 16,865 passenger vehicle occupants over age 4 (that is, an additional 2,701) for the nation as a whole in 2002. If *ALL* passenger vehicle occupants over age 4 wore safety belts, 21,317 lives (that is, an additional 7,153) could have been saved in 2002.



**FROM 1975 THROUGH 2002, AN  
ESTIMATED 164,753 LIVES WERE  
SAVED BY SAFETY BELTS**

655

Number of deaths from car accident in Minnesota in 2003.

40%

Percentage of those crashes that involved drunken drivers.

80%

Percentage of those killed in crashes who weren't wearing seatbelts.

Air bags, combined with lap/shoulder safety belts, offer the most effective safety protection available today for passenger vehicle occupants.

In 2002, an estimated 2,248 lives were saved by air bags. From 1987 to 2002, a total of 11,663 lives were saved.

Some crashes at lower speeds may result in injuries, but generally not the serious injuries that air bags are designed to prevent. For this and other reasons, **lap/shoulder belts should always be used, even in a vehicle with an air bag.**